

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council
WORKING GROUP CHARTER:
Control & Management

Co-Leads: Dr. John Brock – Co-lead (ASU Polytechnic)
Joanne Roberts – Co-lead (AZ State Parks)

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| Members: | Jerry Levitt (USDA) | Bill Werner (ADWR) | Brian McGrew (ADA) |
| | Brian Moorhead (SRP) | Doug Witte (AZ SLD) | Gary Russell (USDA) |
| | Dr. Elisabeth Lawaczek (ADHS) | Alix Rodstad (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum) | Dr. Ed Northam (Southwest Vegetation Management Association) |
| | Group member | Group member | Group member |
| | Group member | Group member | Group member |

Date: 25 October 2007

Background:

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) shall develop a comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan for Arizona based upon the framework recommended in the report, “Arizona’s Invasive Species Situation: unwanted plants and animals – June, 2006”. As recommended in the Report, the framework shall center around five focal strategic concepts: 1) Leadership and Coordination, 2) Research and Information Management, 3) Anticipation and Outreach, 4) Control and Management, and 5) Funding. This comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan should also provide guidance and identify expertise for the recommendations outlined in the Report.

Multiple jurisdictional authorities, complex and interspersed land ownership, and conflicting policies and cultures create challenges to effectively control and manage invasive species. The goals of control and management are to mitigate the undesired impacts of invasive species on agriculture productivity, biodiversity, public health, economies, infrastructure, tourism, recreation, and wildfire.

Mission:

To describe Control and Management needs and goals pertaining to invasive species policy and approaches in Arizona, and to develop a comprehensive statewide management plan component that outlines control and management objectives and tasks to achieve those goals in Arizona.

Objectives:

1. Reduce the number of invasive species coming into Arizona from other states and Mexico through various pathways.

- a. Research and recommend the adoption or development of Early Detection (ED) and protocols to prevent the spread and reduce the impacts of newly detected invasive species under varying circumstances.
 - b. Recommend the adoption of an incident command process for use in ED when appropriately triggered.
 - c. Develop objectives that might guide Incident Command for situations that demand Rapid Response (RR) and circumstances under which it might be employed
 - d. Identify the possible threat categories requiring ED, recommend appropriate triggers, and identify the agency responsible for assuming Incident Command or leadership in the ED.
 - e. Identify existing, and if needed, establish new objectives for identifying and acquiring potential future funding opportunities that may support ED.
 - f. Identify existing, and if needed, establish new objectives for identifying and acquiring potential future funding opportunities that may support RR.
 - g. Create an action plan that identifies tasks and parties responsible for educating and reminding the public to reduce unintended movement of invasive species within Arizona. The plan should include the following:
 - i. Solicit public participation (citizen scientist role)
 - ii. Identify tools and groups that will aid implementation.
 - iii. Identify levels of training and education required to respond to emergencies.
 - h. Develop a Rapid Response Plan that may be utilized by an Incident Command Structure.
2. Identify and recommend uniform invasive species eradication or control and management processes for State Agencies and other stakeholders.
- a. Identify procurement needs (high demand or emergency) and recommend types/genres of contracts be established to increase purchasing efficiency for agencies statewide. Research and recommend adoption of streamlined processes for identifying opportunities among the State and partner agencies.
 - b. Identify specialized personnel among the government agencies and stakeholders that are trained and credentialed in control and management of invasive species.
 - c. Review and provide recommendation as to whether a mechanism can be created that allows agencies to share staff time and resources for emergency response or as a service response.
Recommendation: Develop Memorandum of Understanding among state agencies and signatories that identify responsibilities and opportunities for resource sharing.
 - d. Recommend incentives to promote and encourage State agency staff to be trained in invasive species management.
 - e. Recommend a process for training relevant staff and volunteers on detection and dispersal of invasive species to increase data collection, reporting, early detection power, eradication, and restoration efforts.
 - f. Enlist commitment from State agencies to support and contribute in data collection, eradication, restoration, and mapping and database management efforts.

- g. Review existing agency policies and protocols for invasive species and make recommendations towards adopting uniform policies statewide.
 - h. Review existing agency education and outreach programs and make recommendations towards direction, improvement of, and/or adoption of programs from existing invasive species management resources and organizations.
 - i. Identify opportunities to cooperate with Local Governments, Federal Agencies and private industry to utilize current programs and to facilitate development, testing, transfer and training concerning invasive species control and management practices.
 - j. Identify opportunities to share information, technologies, and technical capacity on the control and management of invasive species with other states and countries promoting environmentally sound practices.
 - k. Emphasize integrated pest management as the working framework for control and management actions.
 - l. Adopt best management practices (BMP) for invasive species control, management, including where necessary, habitat restoration and continually update the BMP's.
 - m. Report control, management and restoration results to the central data base developed and maintained by the Arizona Invasive Species Center.
3. Identify other existing creative funding opportunities to assist with invasive species control and management.

Scope/Limits of Responsibility:

- 1. The role of the Council is advisory. Recommendations to the Governor and to State agencies are weighty and may stimulate development of policy, approaches, and regulatory change. The Council does not have independent regulatory authority or rule-making responsibilities.
- 2. The definition of "Invasive Species" was adopted by the Governor. It is recognized as a broad definition, is open to broad interpretation, and is not intended to be regulatory because of its breadth. The definition is intended to provide counsel and guidance to State agencies and subdivisions of the State, the public, and our partners. The definition, as a recent adoption by the State, need not be debated further in the development of the plan.

Time Commitment:

The full council will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of each month beginning July of 2007 until June of 2008. Development of the Control and Management component of the Invasive Species Management plan is scheduled to begin October 02, 2007 and be completed by January 8, 2008, after which it will be made available for public comment. It is anticipated that product development will largely occur outside of council meetings; therefore Working Group meetings will likely be necessary to complete assignments from this charter and tasks identified at monthly council meetings.

The working group leader or co-leader must notify the Council co-chairs or facilitator if problems are encountered, and especially if additional time is required to complete the assignment.

Products/Deliverables:

1. Using the template provided develop and write the Control and Management component of the management plan by January 08, 2008.
2. A list of agencies, stakeholders and interested persons with whom the Control and Management Working Group will communicate and coordinate, and a plan detailing this coordination.
3. Provide a prioritized list of recommended actions, timelines, responsible parties, and cost estimates. A template implementation matrix will be provided for presentation of the recommendations.
4. Provide a list and brief overview of any case studies or examples for inclusion in the management plan that identify innovative strategies employed by other entities to address control and management of invasive species issues at local, State, federal levels, or by universities, private organizations or any other entity.
5. Provide a summary of existing creative funding opportunities to assist with invasive species control and management.
6. The Council co-chairs or the Council as a whole may suggest additional deliverables not listed in this charter. The Working Group may disagree with such a suggestion with a valid reason.

Other:

At its first meeting, the Council will discuss the Charter, and the facilitator or co-chairs will respond to any emergent issues or questions.

Working Group ground rules will also be drafted at the first meeting and will be incorporated into the Team Charter.